



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

# News Release

February 14, 2005

## **ICE ARRESTS COLOMBIAN FUGITIVE LIVING IN ATLANTA**

*Fugitive on the run since March 2002*

ATLANTA— Federal Officers assigned to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Fugitive Operations task force arrested a 37-year-old Colombian citizen who has been on the run since March 2002. The apprehension is part of a national operation to arrest and remove fugitives.

Nesbia Orejuela-Lopez, was apprehended Wednesday at her residence without incident. She had been ordered removed from the United States by an immigration judge following a court proceeding. Ms. Lopez was ordered to depart by March 2, 2002 but chose to ignore the judge's order.

Local police arrested Lopez on Dec. 28, 2004 on charges of domestic violence. Lopez was released on bond by county authorities, and on February 9, 2005 ICE agents arrested her as a fugitive. Orejuela-Lopez is being held in an ICE detention facility awaiting removal from the country.

John A. Mata who heads the Atlanta Detention and Removal Office said, "Ms. Lopez had her day in immigration court, was ordered removed, and chose to ignore the law. Failure to comply with our country's immigration law is unacceptable and we will continue to arrest and remove those who flaunt the law."

ICE's National Fugitive Operation Program (NFOP) was established on Feb. 25, 2002, making the apprehension of absconders, or fugitives, a priority, within the Department of Homeland Security. The primary mission of NFOP is to identify, locate, apprehend, process, and remove fugitive aliens from the United States. ICE's Atlanta fugitive operations team, through its targeted enforcement efforts, has arrested over 305 fugitives since the beginning of fiscal year 05. Atlanta's detention and removal field office oversees targeted enforcement operations in Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Puerto Rico.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*